

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECRET

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

REPORT

SUBJECT Situation of Smallholders

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1. A considerable amount of propaganda, both in the press and over the radio, has been devoted to the subject of private smallholders. The J.Z.D. (collective farms) were repeatedly advised not to put any obstacles in the way of members wishing to be released and take up private farming again. This propaganda is not carried out in practice, however, and pressure from the J.Z.D. and the Communist Party continues. Smallholders must still fulfil a much higher quota from the same acreage of land than the J.Z.D. and they are paid less for their products than are the J.Z.D.
2. Contrary to the official announcements, it is still very difficult for smallholders to obtain any chemical fertilizers and if they manage to do so, they are required to pay more than the J.Z.D. The J.Z.D. also have priority in purchasing agricultural implements, which are quite difficult to obtain. Again, private smallholders cannot buy or sell their cattle freely, but must get permission from the District National Committees and their local J.Z.D., who frequently refuse such applications. All these difficulties put in the way of private smallholders do not encourage members to leave the J.Z.D. and start up on their own again.
3. The following incident lends support to the belief that the much publicized new policy towards smallholders is not carried out in practice. In the village of Jevineves, Roudnice District, the smallholder Knotek (fnu) gave up less than his prescribed quota of grain to the Agricultural Co-operative; they refused to pay him for his delivery until he made up the prescribed amount. He was unable to do so as he had only left himself enough grain for sowing. In October a search of his premises was made by four members of the People's Militia from Roudnice. They found the grain he had kept for sowing and confiscated it, recommending that Knotek buy the grain he required for sowing. Up to the end of October, he had still not been paid.
4. Searches by members of the People's Militia for hidden grain or livestock are quite frequent on private smallholders' premises. Such searches are invariably conducted by the Militia and not by the police (VB-Verejne Bezpecnost).

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW